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Transcriber's Office

March 2, 2000

LB 963, 1023

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Hudkins. I just wanted to stand in support of this legislation. It's timely. I think this goes to an event that took place in Senator Hudkins' District where a veterinarian came there to practice, was not able to because that veterinarian had graduated from another...a foreign veterinary school. So we're just bringing Nebraska statutes in line with other states' statutes across the nation that would allow these foreign veterinary graduates to practice in this nation providing they go through certain...jump through certain hoops, and you will see those hoops listed in that letter that was distributed to you this morning. So with that, I'd just like to encourage the support of this bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Jensen, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. The committee amendment simply incorporates LB 963 into LB 1023. LB 963 was a bill introduced by Senator Dierks, which is also a bill that relates to the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery and was advanced unanimously by the committee. LB 963 provides for the licensing of veterinary technicians and eliminates provisions relating to approved animal technicians. LB 963 provides requirements for licensure as a vet tech and requires 24 hours of continuing education every three years to maintain that license. LB 963 also requires the Department of Regulation and Licensure to adopt and promulgate rules and regulations for the licensing of vet techs and standards for supervising certain animal health care tasks of which those tasks may be performed by a vet tech or an unlicensed assistant. I will yield the remainder of my time to Senator Dierks, who was the introducer of LB 963, if he so desires.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Jensen. It's...this is a bill that was brought to my attention by the veterinary technicians in Nebraska. Currently, they practice under a certificate, and the certificate has some